



THE AUSTRIAN OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP PROGRAMME¹ FOCUS ON THE EUROPEAN SECURITY

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„The key word here is confidence: Confidence Building Measures (CBM) are the maximum and the minimum the OSCE can do.”²

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to invite a short traveling through time into the past and the future through the present Austrian Chairmanship programme of the tasks of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/the Organization). The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe represents the largest regional security organizations in the world, nonetheless its visibility relatively low in the international organizations, in particular compared to the UN, EU or even NATO. This analysis wants to change this image. It does this shortly through the Austrian Chairmanship program, outlines the opportunities for more realistic version of this co-operative security organization. It is supported by its role. The OSCE's roles, i.e. activities are from „hard” security issues such as conflict prevention to fostering economic development, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, and promoting the full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It can be seen its complementary role in building security and maintaining stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

After having the Austrian Chairmanship has been in office only for four months, that is why this article is not intended to give a mainstream analysis of Austrian OSCE Chairmanship programme, but put general discription that would have been accepted by

¹ „The work was created in commission of the National University of Public Service under the priority project KÖFOP-2.1.2-VEKOP-15-2016-00001 titled „Public Service Development Establishing Good Governance” in (the) *Miklós Zrínyi Habilitation Program*.”

² Ben Hiller, OSCE Cyber Security Officer said in Vienna 4 March, 2017. In: Christina Ginthör and Raphaëlle Galloux: Panel 5: Challenge of a security regime based on unknowns, <http://www.polemics-magazine.com/dasicon/panel-5-challenge-of-a-security-regime-based-on-unknowns> (downloaded: 27 04 2017)

everybody anyhow. Rather, the article's aim is to present proposals that do not (yet) enjoy consensus, in order to inform and stimulate a necessary debate between memberstates, or international players. The article is serious also, because our European security is based on the consensus which as well, this Organization is able to promote. On the whole I think this short article is thought-provoking, very interesting and timely reading.

Keywords: OSCE, Austrian Chairmanship, Euro-Atlantic area, security, dialogue, confidence.

INTRODUCTION

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's new and complex definition of security, instead formed at the end of the Cold War's division of Europe and for recognizing that serious and always happening violations of human rights are often the source of a conflict. Democratic development, therefore, was subsequently made an essential for building long-term stability. Participating States (57 members) today seek to ensure its realization „from Vancouver to Vladivostok” and to give this definition wider adaptation in three dimensions, global, regional and local dimension. This is at a time when missions, tasks, field operations of the Organization are confronted with a new dimension of security challenges, such as that which is developing at present in Ukraine. Europe – by which it means here the OSCE area – faces with more intense and a multitude of challenges, some, such as terrorism, extremism, radicalism or climate change, have external origins; and these connect with our living together on the all European continent.

As the Lamberto Zannier, the OSCE Secretary General said in the conference of „DASICON³ 2017” said „the OSCE and dialogue more important than ever”. The OSCE still has an important role to play for security in the region and has comparative advantages, said Zannier. Although there are increasing divisions between the participating States, „the OSCE remains relevant because everybody is there and they are all connected by geography and geopolitics”. He continued that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine is a sign of hope that the consensus approach of the organization works.⁴ Nevertheless the question is rised: how would the OSCE handle this situation?

To solve this I think definitely strategic and tactical assistance is provided by the OSCE Chairmanship, because the question should be examined in the context of

³ DASICON: Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative Conference

⁴ Ansgar Fellendorf: Zannier: “High OSCE Profile is Bad News” *Keynote Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General*, <http://www.polemics-magazine.com/dasicon/zannier-high-osce-profile-is-bad-news> (downloaded: 27 04 2017)

circumstances. So before we are moving on to the current topic, it is worth reviewing the previous German OSCE Chairmanship's main achievements.⁵ The OSCE Chairmanship has meant for Germany in 2016 „practically speaking” a huge project and „politically speaking” commitment to effective multilateral organizations and standing ready to take on responsibility. Foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, wished his successor as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for 2017, his Austrian counterpart all the best, a sure hand and above all the necessary patience to get a result in worthwhile discussions and coordination processes. He gave this assurance that „they will not leave the new Chair to cope with this difficult task on its own. And as part of the Troika, they will be happy to provide advice and support on request.”⁶ The German OSCE Chairmanship in his closing remarks,⁷ left the participating States with a question: „A quarter of a century after the end of the Cold War, we find ourselves at something like a crossroads. We are faced with the fundamental question: do we want to continue pursuing this vision of co-operative and comprehensive security or not?” [1:4]

Worth mentioning is that a call to strengthen the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has been launched through the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung by the foreign ministers of Germany, Italy and Austria. Quoting the ministers: „just in stormy times, we need a strong OSCE”. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Paolo Gentiloni and Sebastian Kurz said with one voice on the eve of the organization's Council of Ministers. The three ministers identified some common grounds for action, such as „the creation of new platforms for dialogue and for a lasting solution of the crisis in Europe, a new beginning of monitoring conventional arms, a common approach to global challenges”. The ministers speak of „too restless times in Europe” that „have questioned the architectural pillars of European peace” and explicitly mentioned the Ukrainian crisis.⁸

I note at the moment, but it will be interesting later (in 2018) that Italy's agenda will focus on a solution to the Ukraine crisis, the migrant and refugee crisis, and strengthening the partnership with countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean, the minister said.

⁵ For more details see the article (under construction): The German OSCE chairmanship in 2016 by Éva Remek in AARMS 2017, Vol.16, No.2.

⁶ Federal Foreign Office, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on the end of Germany's OSCE Chairmanship 2016, http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Aussenpolitik/Friedenspolitik/OSZE/Aktuell/OSZE_5_Fragen_BM.html (downloaded: 16 04 2017)

⁷ Ministerial Council, Hamburg, 2016

⁸ ANSA it Nuova Europa, *Germany Italy and Austria call for stronger OSCE*, https://anssa.it/nuova_europa/en/news/countries/germany/2016/12/07/germany-italy-and-austria-call-for-stronger-osce_4bf4063e-7ec6-4208-b87a-c4494e17de49.html (downloaded: 22 04 2017)

However Germany dedicated its 2016 Chairmanship of the OSCE to exploring ways „to renew dialogue and to restore trust among participating states and security Europe”. To this end, Germany supported substantive work on the priorities of its Chairmanship, which included inter alia strengthening OSCE capabilities across the conflict cycle, tackling challenges to fundamental freedoms in the OSCE region, strengthening economic linkage and good governance and terrorism and other transnational threats.

To sum up the German Chairmanship continued work in fields participating states had set out in previous years, especially if they are state „chairs” (Switzerland and Serbia held the OSCE Chairmanships in 2014 and 2015, they are the OSCE Troika) and initiated new models to address new challenges such as large movements of migrants and refugees, including questions of tolerance and nondiscrimination, increasingly diverse societies, energy security, media freedom, etc. And now let us look at a few details of the Austrian Chairmanship’s programme...

CONCEPTS AND INSTITUTIONS: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT DO THEY ARE?

Firstly, the concepts and institutions (only which closely to the theme of this article) related to the topic will be reviewed. Secondly, the introduction of a changed European security will be shown. Finally, in this (concepts, institutions, European security) context the Austrian presidency priorities will be specified.

Concepts

It can be treated as a fact that the challenges in front of the world are numerous and complex that is why difficult to resolve those. The situation in the OSCE area is characterized by a number of major „fragmentation zones” as well as security challenges. These can be classified into four groups: firstly fragmentation and divisions within and between societies; secondly fragmentation within the integration structures; thirdly conflicts in Russian-Western relations; at the end negative influences from outside. [21:11] Here the second and third group will be presented only, from the first and fourth only briefly.

The first group

It means that in most countries within the OSCE area can be found growing populist, nationalist groups, and xenophobic forces. They wish for cutting off their countries from global process. Even in many places they can affect the government, or political forces. This process is dangers and hampers the maintaining of free and open Europe.

The second group

The European Union (EU) is the most sophisticated integration structure in the OSCE space. Its development is key for the whole of Europe, and the EU-Russia relationship is a major pillar of the European order.⁹

NATO is also facing significant challenges in relation to the conflict for example in Syria, where different member states are going on different and even conflicting strategies. Moreover, this situation is made difficult by the the „argument” over transatlantic burden-sharing. Interesting example is the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has not yet become a driver of economic cooperation among its member state (the Ukraine crisis has caused political problems among members¹⁰), but their national interests’ realization depends on the relationship between Russia and the West. The situation is similar to the Collective Security Treaty Organization, too. The solution has be found by these countries so that, through their multi-vector foreign and security policies.¹¹

The third Group

According to experts’ opinion Russia’s involvement in the Ukraine crisis has raised worries in the West, especially among Russia’s neighbours, that Moscow is pursuing „a revisionist policy that seeks to revise the post-Cold War European order”. This has moved Russia’s neighbours, which have already become members of the EU and NATO, „to seek credible reassurances from the Alliance and to move towards a deterrence posture vis-à-vis Russia”. [21:14] The expert writings really indicate perceptible, some kind of "Cold War behavior", and it is determined that „this kind of essentialist approach is a really alarming sign”.¹²

How does all of this relate to the German OSCE Chairmanship? So that this crisis or conflict is now more dangerous, with „no clear rules of the road”.¹³ The German foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, an advocate of dialogue, made the same (see before) point:

⁹ More details of the EU’s internal disagreements, the deep socioeconomic North-South, Brexit and etc. are in [21: 11-13]

¹⁰ More details [21:12]

¹¹ It means that they strive for enlargement their relations with NATO, the EU, the OSCE to balance their relationship with Russia.

¹² By working group [21:14]

¹³ Sir John Sawers, the former head of MI6 said In: Patrick Wintour-Luke Harding-Julian Borger: Cold war 2:0: how Russia and the west reheated a historic struggle, The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/24/cold-war-20-how-russia-and-the-west-reheated-a-historic-struggle> (downloaded: 20 04 2017)

„It’s a fallacy to think that this is like the cold war. The current times are different and more dangerous.”¹⁴

The fourth group

Analysts said that two developments have had a main impact on European security. Firstly, the change in global economic and power structures, secondly conflicts and instability in Europe’s region.¹⁵

To sum up analysts and politicians talk about a new european order. The paradigm of a world in crisis is dominating the international debate. „Post-truth?, Post-West?, Post-order?” are questions certain to be raised at the Munich Security Conference.¹⁶ How does this appear in Austrian OCSE chairmanship’s plans?

Institutions

The OSCE is chaired on a rotating basis by the participating states. Each state holds the chairmanship for one year and in this capacity plays a major role in steering the work of the organisation and in representing the OSCE externally. The foreign minister of the chairing state holds „the function of the Chairperson-in-Office”. At the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basle in December 2014,¹⁷ Austria was tasked by the participating states to take over the OSCE chairmanship in 2017. Thus, Austria will succeed Germany, which is chairing the organisation in 2016, and will hold this responsible and important function for the second time after its chairmanship in 2000. The OSCE chair has a wide variety of tasks and therefore is a key political player. In this role as a mediator, Austria „can build on its foreign-policy experience and priorities to strengthen security in Europe. Managing conflicts, preventing and fighting transnational threats to internal security and restoring trust in a common space with 1.2 billion people will be some of the challenges and priorities of the Austrian chairmanship”. [8]

¹⁴ The Guardian. Ibidem

¹⁵ European Security – Challenges at the Societal Level, p.12-13. http://osce-network.net/file-OSCE-Network/documents/European_Security-OSCE_WEB.pdf (downloaded: 24 04 2017)

¹⁶ Sigmar Gabriel: Certainties in an uncertain world We can – and must – build on the unity of the transatlantic alliance, https://www.securityconference.de/fileadmin/MSC_/2017/Sonstiges/ST_Feb2017_double_page.pdf (downloaded: 23 04 2017)

¹⁷ DECISION No. 4/14 OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2, <http://www.osce.org/mc/130426?download=true> (downloaded: 27 04 2017)

Chairmanship, Chairperson-in-Office

The OSCE Chairmanship is held for one calendar year by the OSCE participating State designated as such by a decision of the Ministerial Council. The function of the Chairperson-in-Office (CiO) is exercised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of that State. Each year the serial country's Foreign minister acts as Chairperson-in-Office. The Chairperson-in-Office is assisted by the previous and succeeding Chairpersons; the three of them together constitute the Troika.¹⁸ The origin of the institution lies with the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990),¹⁹ and the Helsinki Document (1992)²⁰ formally institutionalized this function. Current OSCE Chairperson-in-Office is Sebastian Kurz (Austria). The OSCE Chairmanship will be held by Italy in 2018. And former OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, was Frank-Walter Steinmeier²¹ in 2016. [2]

Secreteriat, Secretary General

The Secretariat generally assists the OSCE Chairmanship and supports OSCE field activities. It is important that this institution maintains contacts with international and non-governmental organizations, and provides conference, language, administrative, financial, personnel and information technology services. The Secretariat was established by the Charter of Paris for a New Europe in 1990, too. Current OSCE Secretary General is Lamberto Zannier. To sum up under the direction of the secretary General, the Secretariat provides operational support to the Organization. Based in Vienna, it also comprises the OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague.²²

¹⁸ CSCE HELSINKI DOCUMENT 1992 THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE (15): „The Chairman-in-Office may be assisted by the preceding and succeeding Chairmen, operating together”. <http://www.osce.org/mc/39530?download=true> (downloaded: 22 04 2017) as a Troika, in carrying out entrusted tasks. The Chairman-in-Office will retain the responsibility for such tasks and for reporting on Troika activities to the Council/CSO.

¹⁹ CHARTER OF PARIS FOR A NEW EUROPE: A NEW ERA OF DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND UNITY <https://fas.org/nuke/control/paris/text/charter.htm> (downloaded: 22 04 2017)

²⁰ CSCE HELSINKI DOCUMENT 1992 THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE, full document <http://www.osce.org/mc/39530?download=true> (downloaded: 22 04 2017)

²¹ See more details of this annual work in <http://www.osce.org/chairmanship/chairperson-in-office-2016> (downloaded: 20 04 2017)

²² There are eight main functions: border management, counter terrorism, combating trafficking in human beings, conflict prevention and resolution, cyber/Information Communication Technologies security, economic and environmental activities, gender equality, migration, policing.

The OSCE is the foundation for a pan-European security infrastructure²³

At present time Europe is witnessing „the worst security crisis since the end of World War II”.²⁴ The conflict in eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea demonstrated again that military conflict is still possible in Europe. This is „aggravated by a general increase in military activity, including the stationing of Russian and NATO forces along strategic borders, a rise in military exercises, as well as large-scale sea and air maneuvers”. This has significantly heightened the risk of military accidents. [3] This situation was well-treated by German Chairmanship, just through the conventional arms control as „a tried and tested means of risk-reduction, transparency and confidence-building between Russia and the West.”²⁵ It is important to mention that German OSCE Chairmanship was successful in balancing US and Russian interests, while taking into account „the preference by the like-minded group to initiate a structured dialogue on conventional arms control”.²⁶ The consensus which 57 participating OSCE states, including the US and Russia, reached on was exemplary in the Ministerial Council last year. This should happen inside structured dialogue „on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area to foster a greater understanding on these issues that could serve as a common solid basis for a way forward”.²⁷ As the OSCE expert²⁸ formulates, this impetus should not be lost. So the German Chairmanship has made its division of work. The „ball is now in the court of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship „to devise a dialogue format within the OSCE”. The Austrian Chairperson-in-office is clearly aware of this „task”, because in Munich Security Forum the Foreign Minister said the next: „The era in which the OSCE was regarded as a “Sleeping Beauty” is over.” Given the herculean tasks facing us all, it offers an ideal forum for (re-) creating a peaceful order based on shared values and commitments. It offers a platform for an

²³ By Sebastian Kurz, Austrian Foreign Minister,
https://www.securityconference.de/fileadmin/MSC_/2017/Sonstiges/ST_Feb2017_double_page.pdf
(downloaded: 23 04 2017)

²⁴ Stephanie Liechtenstein: Relaunch - The crisis of the conventional arms control regime, In: The Security Times, Munich Germany, February 2017,
https://www.securityconference.de/fileadmin/MSC_/2017/Sonstiges/ST_Feb2017_double_page.pdf
(downloaded: 23 04 2017)

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe 9 December 2016, Ministerial Council, Hamburg 2016, FROM LISBON TO HAMBURG: DECLARATION ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCE FRAMEWORK FOR ARMS CONTROL, p.1, <http://www.osce.org/cio/289496?download=true> (downloaded: 23 04 2017)

²⁸ Stephanie Liechtenstein, works as web editor-in-chief for the “Security and Human Rights Monitor.” She held several positions at the OSCE in Vienna between 2003 and 2008.

honest dialogue between East and West, North and South. In doing so it must not give the impression that it is papering over different perspectives, points of view and narratives.”²⁹

Priorities of the Austrian Chairmanship

Before presenting of the topic we stop for a brief looking back and out, is worth short-summing-up of Austria's views on the various European security institutions. Especially since the events of 2014, it has become clear that it is no longer exclusively border conflicts and military confrontations, but also increasing radicalization and terrorism as well as a growing loss of trust – also among participating States – that are giving way to a rising feeling of insecurity and augmenting fears in our societies. It is particularly against such a background that the OSCE plays a key role in re-establishing security and stability. It is true especially the European security order has changed. After years at the margins of international diplomacy, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has suddenly regained political relevance because of the Ukraine crisis that began in 2014. But there is, however, one inescapable aspect of priorities. Namely in her geographic position, Austria is more exposed to these risks than other West European countries. The radical changes in the security environment necessitate a thorough adjustment of their security policy. 10 years ago, even Alois Mock,³⁰ Foreign Minister of Austria said that „this adaptation has to proceed from the premise that our traditional policy, neutrality, no longer constitutes a sufficient response to these new challenges. Most of the new security problems facing Europe (this statement was made in 1995) - military and non-military alike - cannot be resolved by any state on its own, but only through collective efforts in the framework of common institutions.”³¹

What are Austria's priorities for its 2017 Chairmanship concretely? Austria has therefore defined the priorities for its Chairmanship of the OSCE 2017 in response to the

²⁹ Sebastian Kurz: No “Sleeping Beauty” The OSCE is the foundation for a pan-European security infrastructure, The Security Times – Strategy, February 2017, p.1.

https://www.securityconference.de/fileadmin/MSC_/2017/Sonstiges/ST_Feb2017_double_page.pdf
(downloaded: 23 04 2017)

³⁰ He was a significant person, During his term of office as Foreign Minister, he led Austria's accession negotiations with the EU. He worked untiringly to convince Austrians and achieved an overwhelming 66% of consent to joining the EU from voters, which earned him the sobriquet „Mister Europe”. He and his Hungarian counterpart Gyula Horn cutting the wire fence of the Iron Curtain on 27 June 1989 made it into the history books. Apart from his commitment to Austria's EU accession Alois Mock also championed the peaceful resolution of conflicts in former Yugoslavia. Alois Mock – his Commitment to Austria, <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/the-ministry/press/announcements/2017/01/alois-mock-his-commitment-to-austria/>
(downloaded: 27 04 2017)

³¹ More details see in article of Austria's role in the new Europe, <http://www.nato.int/docu/review/1995/9502-4.htm> (downloaded: 27 04 2017)

current threats and challenges in the OSCE area. In the context of its Chairmanship Austria will thus focus on:³²

Firstly contributing towards solving existing conflicts.

The last few months have seen a further aggravation of violent conflicts, which have already resulted in numerous victims, displacements and destruction. The Austrian Chairmanship will therefore place a major focus on addressing and countering these developments. „There can be no military solution for the existing conflicts in the OSCE area,” said Sebastian Kurz, who travelled to Ukraine from 3 to 4 January 2017. „The crisis in and around Ukraine shows how much the OSCE is needed, for the security of people living there and in improving their lives.” He stressed the need to continue supporting and further strengthening the work of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine,³³ but also the importance of co-operation with the Trilateral Contact Group³⁴ and the OSCE Chairperson’s Special Representative Ambassador Martin Sajdik, as well as the Normandy Format³⁵, in finding a solution to the crisis.[4]

Secondly joining forces in fighting radicalization and violent extremism.

The increasing threat to domestic security posed by radicalization of mainly young people and resulting in terrorism represents an imminent risk to the entire OSCE area. The Austrian Chairmanship will therefore place a major focus on countering these tendencies. The basic problem is that as the Austrian Foreign Minister said that they know that „over 10,000 people from the OSCE area have joined the so-called Islamic State as foreign terrorist fighters to rape, kill and try to annihilate religious minorities in Syria, Iraq and Libya. Military success against these barbaric terrorists could entail a higher number of terrorist returnees and an increased level of threat in the middle of our societies”.³⁶

His solution suggestion is that the OSCE must work together to identify and address root causes and triggers for radicalization. „Listening to youth” is a necessary element in this

³²Programme of the Austrian OSCE Chairman for presentation to participants states, <http://www.osce.org/cio/293066?download=true> (downloaded: 27 04 2017)

³³ The Ukrainian missions will be topics of a later and of the other analysis.

³⁴ The Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine is a group of representatives from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the OSCE.

³⁵ The so-called ‘Normandy format’ was set up after French President François Hollande gathered the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and host country France around one table, on the 70th anniversary of the Allied D-Day landings that helped turn the tide during World War Two.

³⁶ Interview with the new OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Sebastian Kurz, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs Security Community, *The OSCE Magazine, ISSUE 4 2016, p.14.* <https://www.osce.org/magazine/292926?download=true> (downloaded: 24 04 2017)

effort. The OSCE therefore intend to hold „four regional workshops”, in Western Europe, the Black Sea region, Central Asia and the Western Balkans, on the topic of youth radicalization. „Youth will participate and help develop innovative approaches to dealing with this problem.” These ideas will give them a sound basis for further work within the Organization. This especially important task that is why Chairmanship also plans to implement a project in 2017 to empower youth to address radicalization in their societies.

In this context (it is related to young people too, but in another place) another problem appears. Recent waves of migrants have brought new challenges for many OSCE participating States, as well as their citizen. The Organization is working on a number of migration including creating opportunities for young people in countries of origin. Namely, this raises new social problems.

Thirdly re-establishing trust and confidence.

The increasing loss of trust between states as well as citizens continuing loss of confidence in governmental institutions and organisations mandated with safeguarding peace and our shared values, needs to be critically examined. The Austrian Chairmanship will therefore place a major focus on taking relevant action and on launching the necessary initiatives aimed at facilitating confidence building.

Similar to the cohesive programme of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, the activities launched.

To sum up these steps are very important for the succesful implementation of the Austrian OSCE programme's in 2017. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - the former CSCE - is highly qualified to serve above described plans a comprehensive framework for dialogue and cooperation on European security. Its documents offer a substantive and detailed „code of conduct based on shared values which should guide the policies of the member states in all areas”. Reaching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the OSCE provides an irreplaceable forum for a broad, continuing dialogue, in which „the interests of all participants can be brought together in a truly comprehensive perspective on European developments”. It thus plays a vital role in overcoming the legacy of old divisions (from the beginning – Helsinki process) and in preventing the emergence of new obstacles. The OSCE has also established a promising capacity in preventive diplomacy, crisis management and peacekeeping, and continues to play a significant role in arms

control.³⁷ „Considerable progress has been achieved in recent years in adjusting the OSCE to its new functions”, but there is always something to do. Austria, which generally hosts important OSCE institutions,³⁸ remains committed to strengthening the Organization and making it as effective as possible.[7]

Of course they are continuing the work of previous periods, of previous chairmanship. Together with the Troika partners as they stated in the Hamburg Declaration: the Chairmanship will therefore undertake all efforts to support the Organization’s capacity. Such as that to reinforce the OSCE’s legal personality, to support the its autonomous institutions and field operations, and last to strengthen the organization’s resource base.³⁹

CONSEQUANCES

The common point of the resources was that the European security is in crisis... What does it mean? As an example the commander of the Defense Academy, Lieutenant-General Erich Csitkowitz, described in his opening remarks the European security system as experiencing difficult times, facing both transnational terrorism and a global migration crisis, hybrid threats and „inefficiency of existing security institutions which depend on the decisions of a few countries.”[5] „Thus the Ukraine crisis became possible, not the least because of the inefficiency of the pan-European conflict management system. All these problems can be tackled only by a joint effort,” the military official said.

By the other researcher opinion there is a fear that the contradictions between Russia and the EU could intensify. Such a dynamic would create a geopolitical confrontation and would divide Europe again. The entrance into a new cycle of geopolitical and geocultural confrontation with a demarcation line that is shifted to the eastern edge of Europe appears increasingly likely. [6]

In spite of all challenges and new global issues such as migration and climate change, energy, terrorism, radicalism as Lamberto Zannier further said that closer OSCE alignment with the UN as Chapter VIII organization is necessary. This goes along with the OSCE’s

³⁷ A comprehensive set of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) developed by the OSCE underpins the Organization’s co-operative approach to security. They aim to reduce the risks of conflict, increase trust among OSCE participating States and contribute to greater openness and transparency in the field of military planning and activities. They can also serve as early warning indicators of potential conflict situations. Details: OSCE, What we do? <http://www.osce.org/arms-control> (downloaded: 25 04 2017)

³⁸ The Secreteriat, the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Contacts for the OSCE Minsk Group, the Permanent Council are in Vienna.

³⁹ Details are in Programme of the Austrian OSCE chairmanship for presentation to participating states, pp. 1-3. <http://www.osce.org/cio/293066?download=true> (downloaded: 27 04 2017)

multilevel agenda that increasingly involves specific stakeholders such as women, youth, and civil society.

Florian Raunig, head of the Austrian Foreign Ministry's task force for the OSCE Chairmanship said that the consensus of the 57 participating states is „simultaneously a strength and a weakness of the OSCE. Right now it's almost impossible to find consensus. But the moment you reach it – it's cast in stone, it's strength.”. He thinks Austria's role primarily as facilitator of the atmosphere, in which participating states would be able to find a consensus. That would require „guidance” and some „super-ideas”. Yet Austria would not be able to provide the solutions. The conflicting parties would need to find them, with the chairmanship's help.⁴⁰

And finally here are one-to-two thoughts that define the near and distant tasks of the Organization. These are found in a summary (policy paper) of the New Peace Structure for Europe and the Role of the OSCE outlook on the Austrian Chairmanship of the OSCE which made by International Institute for Peace: „smaller steps are better than big ones. Europe needs a common vision of its security architecture. At the moment, we rather have fragmented regional security visions”.⁴¹ In this paper can be read yet one important recommendation for Austrian chairmanship namely „the OSCE and especially its chairmanship need to keep on looking for windows of opportunity for reform. ...should concentrate on the potential of the OSCE while keeping in mind its limitations”.⁴²...So the question is that how can the OSCE be more productive?

Furthermore the old and new tools can certainly bring results, for example it is precisely the dialogue or the mechanisms to assist in different co-operation. Clearly, such a dialogue is needed today with Russia as well, and for similar reasons: encouraging people-to-people contact⁴³ and avoiding the escalation of practical misunderstandings in the realms of culture, civilization and religion. Existing institutional frameworks this is the Council of

⁴⁰ Ibid. Andrei Zolotov.

⁴¹ Policy Paper on the OSCE Conference, A New Peace Structure for Europe and the Role of the OSCE, <http://iip5.webnode.com/news/policy-paper-on-the-osce-conference/> (downloaded: 27 04 2017)

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Since 2004, the Anna Lindh Foundation (which aims 'to bring people together from across the Mediterranean to improve mutual respect between cultures and to support civil society working for a common future for the region. See online at <http://www.annalindhfoundation.org/> (downloaded: 27 04 2017)

Europe and the OSCE may be used to host such a dialogue, which should also include Eastern European countries, including Ukraine.⁴⁴

It is evident to us that the idea of mutual security in the OSCE space is not new concept. The current political reality exposed that few understand its true value. None of the responsible stakeholders can feel safe by "multiplying security" for itself and thus depriving others of it. In this respect, security is in the interest of all and not the position of one or few. „To paraphrase the idiom – it takes a strong organization to make a “tender” security architecture. Since the end of the Cold War, Eurasia’s security architecture has never been in such a systemic crisis. The potential role of the OSCE in its making – on both conceptual and practical levels– has never been so important”.⁴⁵

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